THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. It has been reported by the Super Bazar that they are operating 5 retail outlets in Noida (U.P.). They also propose to open some branches at Patna (Bihar), Bangalore (Karnataka), Ghaziabad (U.P.), Gurgaon and Faridabad (Haryana) and Thiruvantpuram (Kerala) depending upon availability of space and other facilities.

(c) to (e). Super Bazar is an autonomous cooperative society having its own Management to take all its decisions including opening of branches and Government do not interfere in their working.

Ornamental Fish

2680. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the demand for ornamental fish is growing in the country;

(b) if so, whether overfishing could result in destabilising their fragil environment and threaten their very survival;

(c) whether the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI), Mandapam Camp, has conducted any research in this regard, and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) and (b). The demand for ornamental fish is gradually growing in the country and the requirements are largely met from the controlled breeding of ornamental fishes. Since the rate of exploitation of ornamental fishes from inland and marine waters is very limited there is no danger of overfishing.

(c) and (d). Mandapam Regional Centres of Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI), Cochin has not conduced any research on ornamental fishes at Mandapam. However, CMFRI is carrying out a project on survey and assement of marine ornamental fish resources of Lakshadweep under a scheme of the Union Territory of Lakshadweep. Under this Project, surveys were conducted in the lagoons of six islands of Lakshadweep namely, Amini, Agathi, Chetlat, Kalpeni, Kadamat and Kavaratti and a total of 163 species of ornamental fishes belonging to 22 families have ben recorded.

Demand of Foodgrains/Pulses/Oilseeds

2681. SHRI MUKHTAR ANIS : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the estimated demand of foodgrains, pulses and oilseeds in the country during the current year, State-wise;

(b) whether the country has achieved self-sufficiency in the field of foodgrains, pulses and oilseeds to fulfil the indigenous demand; and

(c) if not, the steps being taken to meet the requirement of foodgrains, pulses and oilseeds in the country?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) The normative requirement for foodgrains inclusive of pulses works out to about 191 million tonnes for the year 1996. As regards oilseeds, the demand in terms of oils is estimated to be about 7.5 million tonnes. The State-wise demand for these commodities is not being worked out.

(b) The country is self-sufficient in foodgrains except for pulses and oilseeds.

(c) In order to augment the production of foodgrains, pulses and oilseeds in the country, the Government is implementating Integrated Cereals Development Programme for Wheat, Rice and Coarse Cereals, National Pulses Development Project and Oilseeds Production Programme.

Organic Pollutants

2682. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether in the light of adoption of UNEP Programme the Government propose to draw up a National Plan of Action to ban the use of the most dangerous identified persistent organic pollutants and seek to phase out the disposal of raw severage and industrial waste in the rivers and oceans, and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) and (b) In accordance with relevant chapters of Agenda 21 and the precautionary approach as stated in Principle 15 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, several persistent organic pollutants have been phased out by Government of India. A statement of action taken by the Government on ban/restriction placed on certain persistent organic pollutants is annexed.

In respect of disposal of raw sewage and industrial wastes in the river, the Government has launched the National River Conservation Programme (NRCP) in July 1995 for the pollution abatement of the polluted stretches. Under the Plan, the sewage generated in the identified towns shall be intercepted, diverted and treated before discharge into the rivers. The pollution generated from industries along the coastal areas are